

Report on survey at KVCTT by Thomas Winkler
March 16th to March 24th, 2012

Community Members

In total 42 community members were interviewed, 29 of them were men and half of the interviewees were between 19-30 years old. It was my goal in every village to interview people which are directly connected to tourism, such as hoteliers or shopkeepers along the trek and those who are not directly connected such as farmers or community members with other occupations. Therefore, 22 of the interviewed persons can be considered as directly connected to tourism.

Almost 66% of the interviewed persons are taking actively part in NETIF such as attending meetings and trainings, joining cleaning campaigns or tree planting programs. However, it can clearly be said that hardly anyone knew about sustainable tourism or ecotourism; a few knew that it is a positive thing for nature and the locals. On the question about how much of the tourism income stays within the community the interviewees had different opinions – on average it can be stated that they think that about half of the tourism income will be spend in the community.

	highly agree "1"	agree "2"	partly agree "3"	disagree "4"	answers
e) I can financially benefit from sustainable tourism	22	11	9	0	42
f) There was an improvement in infrastructure in the community since the NETIF project started (sewage treatment, waste treatment, etc.)	23	8	8	1	40
h) NETIF is supporting me in my job	10	10	11	5	36
i) I am satisfied with the sustainable tourism project	21	11	6	3	41
j) I am satisfied with tourists and tourists' behaviour in general	18	13	4	1	36
k) There is enough information about NETIF	13	8	17	4	42
m) Tourism is influencing the local culture	16	17	4	5	42
o) The project is protecting the environment	25	9	6	0	40
p) The project encourages me to think about renewable energy	13	12	5	9	39
q) I am satisfied with the level of participation I have in NETIF	19	6	10	5	40

Tab.: Community members; the coloured sections are representing the median

By looking at the table above it can be see that the overall rating of the project is quite good, especially for the answers about financial benefit (e), infrastructure improvement (f), environmental protection (o) and the overall satisfaction with NETIF (i). However, it seems that in some villages NETIF should provide more information (k) about their work and encourage people to think more about alternative energy (p).

The main inquires by community members were about more and longer trainings, also advanced trainings and most of them are hoping for a long-term cooperation with NETIF.

For more information please have a look at the Excel sheet 'analysis_questionnaires_winkler.xls' at the 'community members' tab.

NETIF workers

In each of the four villages I interviewed the village coordinator and additionally two other NETIF workers. On average, they think that 25%-50% of the tourism income stays within their communities and that about half of the project's money is reinvested in environmental conservation.

	highly agree "1"	agree "2"	partly agree "3"	disagree "4"	answers
e) Enough goods and services are purchased locally	2	2	2	0	6
f) Enough community members are participating in the project	2	2	2	0	6
g) I am satisfied with the sustainable tourism project in this community	3	3	0	0	6
h) There is enough information about the project available	2	2	2	0	6
i) The project is influencing the local culture	1	2	1	2	6
j) More locals should work for the project	4	1	1	0	6
k) Participation of community members is high	1	3	2	0	6
l) The project's political influence in the community is high	0	2	4	0	6
m) The project is contributing to environmental protection	4	2	0	0	6
n) There are good cooperations between the project and national parks/conservationists	1	4	0	0	5
o) The project is increasing the awareness of environmental protection	4	0	2	0	6

Tab.: NETIF workers; the coloured sections are representing the median

As it can be seen from the table above the NETIF workers are satisfied with the project (g), they think the NETIF is contributing to environmental protection (m) and also increasing the awareness of environmental protection (o). They hope for more locals to work for and with NETIF (j) as the participation in the villages could be higher (k).

Overall the NETIF workers are very happy with NETIF's work and they are hoping for a long-term cooperation.

For more information please have a look at the Excel sheet 'analysis_questionnaires_winkler.xls' at the 'NETIF workers' tab.

Tourists

In total 21 tourists from six different countries were questioned about their opinion of the KVCTT. Most of them stated that they are on the trail for trekking and getting to know the culture.

	highly agree "1"	agree "2"	partly agree "3"	disagree "4"	answers
b) I enjoy my stay at this destination	12	7	1	0	20
c) All my expectations are met	9	11	1	0	21
d) I am here because of the sustainable tourism idea	0	3	6	8	17
e) I was informed about sustainable tourism before coming here	0	4	4	10	18
f) I learned something new about the surrounding environment during my stay	5	7	5	3	20
g) Enough information about NETIF is provided	3	3	5	9	20
h) I would like to learn more about the local culture and traditions	12	9	0	0	21
i) I took/will take part in local festivals or local customs	10	8	3	0	21
j) I am actively contributing to environmental conservation in this area (entrance fee, voluntary work, donations, etc.)?	6	4	8	3	21

Tab.: tourists; the coloured sections are representing the median

By looking at the table above it can be seen that most of the tourists enjoyed their stay at the KVCTT (b) and that their expectations were met (c). Almost all of them would like to learn more about the local culture (h) and get accustomed to local tradition (h). However, hardly any tourist knew about sustainable tourism in the area (d) or had knowledge about it (e). Therefore, it can be stated that NETIF should provide more information for tourists (g) as many did not even know that NETIF is promoting the KVCTT. Maybe this would lead to more contribution from their side such as donations or voluntary work (j).

Overall, there were compliments on the trail and the hospitality of the people in the area but many requested more information about the area and sustainable tourism.

For more information please have a look at the Excel sheet 'analysis_questionnaires_winkler.xls' at the 'tourists' tab.